

WJZ-TV
Baltimore, Maryland
Viacom Inc.
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT
First Quarter
January 1, 2004 – March 31, 2004

Station WJZ-TV, licensed to Viacom Inc., is responsive to the principal issues in its community of license, Baltimore, Maryland on a continuing basis. A variety of program elements, including regularly-scheduled news and public affairs programming, reports on breaking news events, documentaries, specials, and public service announcements of concern to the community are included within our regular programming service. WJZ-TV's coverage of news stories, our employees' participation in community affairs, and regular interviews with community leaders have led to the determination that the issues listed are ones of importance to the Baltimore community. Our most significant programming, which dealt with current community issues during the preceding three-month period, are set forth in this report. WJZ-TV broadcasts both locally-produced and network programming. Although we include only local programs herein, WJZ-TV also broadcasts several network broadcasts including FACE THE NATION, 60 MINUTES, 60 MINUTES II, CBS REPORTS and 48 HOURS.

PROGRAM INDEX

CONSUMER WATCH

WJZ's Consumer Reporter Dick Gelfman is on disability. Other WJZ reporters have been assigned to cover consumer interest topics. These reports air in the 5pm and 6pm newscasts.

HEALTHWATCH

WJZ's medical reporter, Kellye Lynn, discusses health issues and interviews experts and patients to deliver information on the latest advances in health for our 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00PM News, Monday-Friday.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Locally produced special reports, focusing on community issues, local lifestyle trends and local personality profiles. These air in the 4:00PM 5:00PM, 6:00PM and 11:00PM newscasts.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH

Relevant projects launched by community organizations to benefit area residents.

ON TIME

A half-hour, Sunday morning public affairs program, which airs at 6:30AM, focusing on leaders, issues and events, affecting the Baltimore community.

1. HEALTH ISSUES

HEALTHWATCH

January 5 - Baltimore County is holding a flu mist clinic. Hundreds of people are showing up to get their vaccine now that the makers of the shot have announced a shortage.

January 6 - The Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross has announced a major blood shortage.

January 7 - The University of Maryland's brain attack team has discovered a new way of detecting mini strokes.

January 7 - Brick Bodies, a local gym is going to area high schools to teach teens the importance of getting in shape.

January 8 - Maryland has its first flu-related death.

January 13 - A Johns Hopkins University researcher has made a finding that could lead to better treatments for asthma.

January 16 - St. Joseph Medical Center unveils its new high tech emergency room.

January 22 - Winter can cause major drying of the skin so we talked to a local dermatologist about the best remedies.

January 26 - The University of Maryland has begun a new study on ADHD. They are finding that parents who have ADHD usually have kids who have it.

January 28 - The bird flu is becoming a threat here in the U.S. and the government is working to keep it out of the country.

January 29 - Second hand snoring can be a bigger sleep problem for people who have to hear it more so than for the snorer.

January 30 - The National Federation of the Blind, located in Baltimore, unveils its new state of the art technology center.

February 6 - Today is National "Wear Red Day" to raise awareness about women's heart health. We aired a story with Laura Bush.

February 9 - Special Report on the Low Carb diet. We looked at the controversy surrounding the popular diet and why some people say it can be deadly.

February 10 - Part 2 of Low Carb diet. Who should be on it and who really shouldn't.

February 11 - Shock wave therapy is a new procedure to help chronic foot pain.

February 12 and 13: Eyewitness News reported on Women and Heart Health as part of Heart Month.

February 13 - A new study, just in time for Valentines Day, says single women have less stress in their lives than married women.

February 16 - Good Samaritan Hospital is reporting extremely high numbers of flu cases.

February 18 - With the obesity rates skyrocketing in the US, more and more young people are turning to gastric bypass as an extreme way to lose weight.

February 19 - Johns Hopkins Hospital has had a recent outbreak of the Norwalk Virus.

February 20 - Doctors are trying a new vitamin combination to treat Macular Degeneration.

February 24 - The Centers for Science and Public Health is looking into restaurants' menus for children. They are criticizing restaurants for offering too many fatty foods on those menus.

February 27 - Johns Hopkins Hospital is trying out "the robot doctor". The robot doesn't take the place of a real doctor, it just visits patients when the doctor can't.

March 4 - 911 operators across Maryland will be now advising callers to give chest compressions while they wait for paramedics.

March 8 - Invisible providers can show up on your doctors' bill even when you make simple visit to your doctor's office. Lab services often go through different companies and many times your insurance company won't cover it.

March 10 - A new report says obesity will soon pass tobacco smoking as the nations leading preventable killer.

March 11 - There has been an HIV testing mix-up at Maryland General Hospital. The hospital says many people who were told they were positive may not be and even worse, those who were told they weren't positive may be.

March 16 - America's weight problem is causing another health issue, diabetes. More and more young people are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

March 19 - Students and staff at a local elementary school are being tested for tuberculosis after a former student teacher reports she has the infectious disease.

March 19 - The EPA has come out with new fish guidelines. The latest version of the guidelines warns expectant mothers and young children to avoid certain fish that contain high levels of mercury.

March 22 - The FDA warns that patients on popular antidepressants should be monitored for suicide.

March 24 - The Baltimore City Health Dept. announces tuberculosis numbers are at an all time low in the city.

March 26 - The Governor of Maryland has declared today Maryland Fertility Awareness Day. We talked to a doctor at GBMC about all the latest technology being used to help couples get pregnant.

March 30 - A Johns Hopkins doctor is performing heart valve surgery on pregnant women. The surgery is saving the lives of both mother and child. Prior to this medical advance, the pregnancy had to be terminated in order to just save the mother.

March 31 - Doctors are now able to implant defibrillators into a patient's heart. It will shock the patient in the event of a heart attack.

ON TIME

January 11 - Kai Jackson talks with Dr. Robert Brown about New Year's resolutions. They discuss self-evaluations and self-analysis and how not addressing mental health issues affect future relationships.

January 11 - The Delmarva Foundation is working to improve the quality of services that home health care providers give their patients. Kai Jackson talks with the CEO on health care reforms and the affect on the African-American community.

February 15 - Cardiovascular Disease is the number one killer of women. Kai Jackson talks with representatives from Bon Secours Tele-Heart program about this problem. Their program empowers those with mild to moderate congestive heart failure to monitor their health and change their diet and exercise regimen. An upcoming Heart Smart day is free and open to all and includes testing for blood pressure and blood sugar, HIV, etc.

March 21 - Kai Jackson talks with Dr. Bayinnah Shabazz, a nephrologist and Joseph Morton who underwent a kidney transplant. They discuss the role of the kidneys: eliminating wastes, regulating hormones, maintaining body fluids, etc. Sixty percent of all chronic kidney disease can be traced to hypertension and diabetes. They discussed how many do not know that they have these illnesses. More than half the patients on dialysis are African Americans. They urged all adults to see a health professional at least once a year to be screened for hypertension, diabetes and kidney function.

March 28 - Kai Jackson talks to representatives from the Alzheimer's Association about the disease, its effects on family caregivers and upcoming expo. Alzheimer's affects a disproportionate number of African-Americans. Hypertension and high cholesterol can lead to Alzheimer's.

2. CONSUMER ISSUES

CONSUMER WATCH

January 5 – WJZ's Mike Schuh looks at how mad cow is affecting consumers .

January 6 – Washington DC is the latest city to ban drivers from using hand-held cell phones.

January 8 – WJZ looks at the hot new electronic gadgets featured at this year's consumer electronic show.

January 8 – Because of the legal issues surrounding Ford Explorers and talk that they could tip over , U-Haul has reportedly stopped renting its trailers to people with Explorers..

January 12 – A new survey shows that 31 thousand cellphone users in 12 cities report poor quality of service dropped calls/ dead zones, static and billing errors.

January 12 – More than 800 thousand GM cars are being recalled because of a power steering defect that has led to at least 8 injuries.

January 12 – Internet sales are booming, and there is talk of collecting tax money from sales and some say that could cripple the online industry.

January 13 – With U.S. cars and trucks at the lowest levels they've been in 5 years, automakers are pushing car buyers to buy American.

January 15 - Chrysler recalls 2.7 million vehicles because of a problem with floor mounted shift levers on cars with automatic transmissions.

January 22 – There is a growing concern about internet fraud. The FTC says more than 55% of complaints filed last year were related to internet fraud.

January 29 - New rules go into effect requiring telemarketing firms to identify themselves.

February 2 - Alex DeMetrick reports that postal inspectors are warning consumers about mail fraud, a business that rakes in millions of dollars every year.

February 5 – The FDA issues a warning about phony contraceptive patches that an Indian internet site is selling that that will not protect against pregnancy.

February 5 – The FDA is advising manufacturers to stop using those tiny hard to understand warning lines that often appear at the bottom of drugs ads.

February 5 – Maryland lawmakers are trying to ban handheld cell phones in cars for the 6th straight year.

February 6 – GM announced the recall of nearly 2 million cars, with potential problems with the ignition switch.

February 10 - A warning for every homeowner to pick construction contractors wisely before making major changes to your home.

February 10 – There are new concerns about tires for sports utility vehicles. A Firestone tire that was once cleared by federal investigators is still the subject of consumer complaints.

February 17 – A federal appeals court upholds the do not call registry. Companies can face fines of up to \$11,000 for each violation.

March 1 - Researchers say anti-bacterial soaps do what they claim to do - kill bacterial - not viruses that cause colds, coughs and stomachaches. They are effective in killing organisms that cause skin infections and food poisoning.

March 6 - Ron Matz reported that a member of the Maryland General Assembly is trying to do something about gift cards with hidden fees and expiration dates.

March 10 - Internet companies like Microsoft, AOL, Earthlink and Yahoo are joining together to sue many of the people responsible for clogging your mailbox with spam.

March 11 – The EPA is looking into the health effects of the vapor released into the air by microwave popcorn.

March 15 – A proposed spending plan calls for a tax on foods like chips and pretzels in Maryland. Lawmakers say the tax would raise 16 million dollars for the state. The bill goes to the senate for a vote next week.

March 17 – The FDA is working on guidelines to determine just how many carbs a product can contain in order to be labeled as low or reduced carb.

March 17 - The Maryland Senate approved a snack tax bill that would expand the state's 5 % sales tax to cover snack foods. The money will help fund the state budget.

March 18 – The cell phone industry is planning to launch a public directory with 156 million listings. The numbers won't be published, but will be available through directory assistance.

March 22 –The Baltimore City Council is considering adding its own tax onto cellphone bills. The plan could bring billions for the cash strapped city.

March 22 – Mailing a first class letter could soon cost nearly 50 cents. The postmaster general says the increase could go that high unless congress eases restriction on how the agency operates.

March 26 – Union workers at Giant and Safeway grocery stores are voting on a new contract.

3. COMMUNITY

January 24 - Eyewitness News spotlighted the Polar Bear Plunge that benefits the Special Olympics. We did a live shot in our morning show.

February 27 - Eyewitness News interviewed Frederick Douglass IV, great grandson of the famed abolitionist and orator. Mr. Douglass was one of the judges in the Black History Month Oratory Contest.

March 1 - Eyewitness News profiles the winners of the Black History Oratory contest.

ON TIME

January 4 - Kai Jackson talks with Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith and the director of the County's Dept. of Aging, Arnold Eppel about the new CD - Taking Care of Mom and Dad. This CD is a resource for family caregivers with details about nursing homes, retirement communities, adult day centers, independent living, etc.

January 4 - Victor Hoskins, the secretary of the State Dept. of Housing and Community Development tells Kai Jackson about several senior housing projects the state is funding. New multi-family housing developments are designed for the elderly and handicapped. Elevators, wide doors and retail shops like hair salons and convenience stores are part of the projects. These new facilities are also accessible to public transportation. The state also helps seniors with home weatherization in the winter months.

January 18 - Kai Jackson talks with Steve Hill, the director of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute, a non-profit organization that analyzes the state government budget and policy initiatives. Steve discusses the current budget deficit and proposals to balance the budget by increasing taxes and fees and cutting programs. He discusses closing the tax loophole that permits the Delaware tax withholding companies to siphon taxable income from Maryland's tax base. Revenue from slots and cuts in the state's health insurance coverage for low-income children is also discussed.

January 18 - Special Olympics Maryland benefits from the Maryland State Police's Polar Bear Plunge. Organizers tell Kai Jackson about the dip planned into the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The money raised supports their athletic programs for disabled athletes.

February 29 - Karate is popular with many of today's youth. Kai Jackson talks with Najib Amin about the history of karate, which means empty hand in Japanese. They discuss how karate teaches children discipline and builds character.

February 15 - Adoptions of African-American siblings are greatly needed in Baltimore City. A new group, Communities of Care is planning an urban campus of new homes for families that adopt children. Kai Jackson talks with an organizer and a mother who has adopted three children in addition to her own two birth children.

February 22 - Kai Jackson talks with Dan Furmansky, the executive director of Equality Maryland about the new bill introduced to gay couples' rights concerning medical decisions affecting their partner. The Medical Decision-

Making Act of 2004 has been introduced into the Maryland legislature by 40 co-sponsors of the bill. They discussed how this bill only deals with medical decisions and is not a precursor to a “gay marriage” bill in Maryland.

March 7 - Kai Jackson talks with Bill Ewing and Brigit Taylor about poverty issues in Maryland. Specifically they discussed how more Marylanders are going to bed hungry each night and how local food pantries have seen an influx of families who need help with food. They talked about their upcoming “Harvest for the Hungry” food drive that allows people to leave canned goods next to their mailbox. The US Postal Service is helping to collect donated food and will deliver the good to area food banks.

March 7 - The Salvation Army began as a religious organization in 1880 in Baltimore to address injustices plaguing poor families. Their current programs offer help with food, housing, family counseling and programs for youth. Lafeea Watson tells Kai Jackson that their upcoming Compassion in Action luncheon honoring Frank Burch and featuring Kevin Plank, the founder of Under Armor Performance Apparel will help fund their outreach programs.

March 14 - WJZ’s Black History Oratory Contest featured 20 semi-finalists from various high schools in Maryland. Kai Jackson, who served as master of ceremonies at the event, showed the first and second place winners speeches from the contest.

March 21 - Preserving natural habitat from development is the main mission of the Conservation Fund. Recently they have begun to target land belonging to African-Americans and historical tracts of land relevant to the lives Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman and Benjamin Banneker for preservation. The director of real estate for the Conservation Fund tells Kai Jackson how his group works with other non-profit groups and community organizations to keep history from being bulldozed over by pricey developments.

March 28 - Child sexual abuse is still a taboo topic in our society. Father Ray Chase tells Kai Jackson about the courage of two boys who were molested and documented their pain in their art. Their artwork developed into the Illuminations Project that is designed to allow other children to have the courage to come forward and tell.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 29: WJZ sponsors the Black History Oratory Contest held at Coppin State College. All high schools in the Baltimore metropolitan area as well a churches were sent materials for the oratory contest. Students were asked to write an original essay based on a supplied inspirational quote from a famous African-American. Twenty semifinalists were selected to present their memorized essays at Coppin. First, second and third place winners received \$300 and a \$500 Coppin Scholarship; \$200 and \$100 respectively. Eyewitness News profiled the contest and the student winners.

4. ART & CULTURE

January 7 - Eyewitness News featured a new exhibit at the Annapolis Dollhouse on our Morning Show.

January 11 - Eyewitness News did a story on the B&O Museum in Baltimore on our Morning Show. We updated the rebuilding efforts after a snowstorm caused the roof at the museum to collapse.

January 17 - Eyewitness News profiled a new show at the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore on our Morning show.

January 19 - Eyewitness News featured an 11-year-old student who made a video about school bullies that aired on our morning show.

January 20 - Eyewitness News featured local author Wayne Brooke who wrote a cooking book on our morning show.

January 21 - Eyewitness News featured a new exhibit at the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore on our morning show.

January 25 - Eyewitness News did a feature on the Boat Show that was held at the Baltimore Convention Center.

February 5 - Eyewitness News featured actress Georgia Engle on our morning show. Georgia starred in the play "Nonsense" at the Lyric Opera House.

February 5 - Eyewitness News did a story on the Hippodrome Theater that re-opened in downtown Baltimore- years after it shut down.

February 7 - Eyewitness News did a feature on Orioles Fan Fest in which more than 30 current and former Orioles greeted fans.

February 8 - Eyewitness News featured the Fire Museum of Maryland to talk about the 100th anniversary of the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904.

February 8 - Eyewitness News featured the 9th annual Black Heritage Art Show held at the Baltimore Convention Center.

February 9 - Eyewitness News profiled Enoch Pratt Library Director Carla Hayden who was named BusinessWoman of the Year by MS Magazine.

February 10 - Eyewitness News featured the director of the Hippodrome theater on the morning of the theater's grand re-opening.

February 18 - Eyewitness News featured the Moulin Rouge Exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art on our morning show.

February 25 - Eyewitness News featured the two stars of the local production of "The Producers" on our morning show.

March 4 -Eyewitness News featured local author MaryAnn Cricchio on our morning show. She wrote a book called "The Owner's Wife."

March 6 -Eyewitness News did a live story from the Maryland Home and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds.

March 8 - Eyewitness News featured local author Buzz Williams on our morning show. He wrote a book called "SPARE PARTS: A Marine Reservist's Journey from Campus to Combat in 38 Days."

March 11 - Eyewitness News featured a long-time clown with the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus on our morning show.

March 12 - Eyewitness News profiled the new movie at the IMAX theater at the Maryland Science Center. The movie is about Nascar.

March 15 - Eyewitness News featured local author Joe Decker on our morning show. He wrote a book called "The World's Fittest You."

March 16 -Eyewitness News featured author Jenyne Raines on our morning show. She wrote a book called "Beautilious: A Black Girl's Guide to Beauty."

March 19 -Eyewitness News featured local artist Dan Keplinger on our morning show. Dan suffers from Cerebral Palsy and his paintings are on display at the Fleckenstein Museum in Towson.

March 21 - Eyewitness News did a live story on "Greenberg's Train Show" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds.

March 23 - Eyewitness News featured children's author Sandra Magsamen on our morning show. She wrote a book called: "When I grow up, I want to be me."

March 25 -Eyewitness News featured two members of the local production of "Oliver" on our morning show. One was a 12-year-old from Silver Spring, Md. who stars as Oliver.

ON TIME

January 4 - Author Craig Marbury and photographer Michael Cunningham collaborated on a new book entitled, "Spirit of Harlem" that profiles this famous African-American community in New York City through the stories of those who call this

city within a city home. At one time, Harlem was home to many notable influential African-Americans from Langston Hughes to Adam Clayton Powell.

January 11 - The Baltimore Museum of Art will be hosting the New York African Film Festival Traveling Series later this month. Kai Jackson talks with the public programs coordinator about African cinema and the significance of this free film series.

January 11 - Kai Jackson promotes the Black History Oratory Contest and other upcoming community events.

January 18 - A new African American cultural foundation in Washington DC is holding their first Black History Month Film Fest and Discussion Series. Kai Jackson talks with the foundation's organizers about the films that will be highlighted as part of the series.

February 8 - Kai Jackson talks with Sherretta Bolling about the Black Heritage Art Show and up-and-coming African American visual artists that are featured at the exhibition. They discuss purchasing art as investments and what to look for in selecting art.

February 8 - Harriet Tubman comes alive at a sleepover planned at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Through a collaborative effort with the Chesapeake Children's Museum and Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, the Aquarium has Harriet Tubman take young and old alike on a journey through the Chesapeake in a re-enactment of her Underground Railroad passage. Kai Jackson talks with organizers about the Tubman legacy.

February 15 - Kai Jackson talks with the director of the Walters Art Museum about two new exhibitions by African-American artists and Black History Month Activities.

February 22 - Slam poetry is as popular as ever and one of the nation's best is being featured in a 3-man production now at the Theatre Project. Kai Jackson talks with Al Letson Jr. about "Griot" and weaving of stories from Africa into an Urban American setting. Letson also performed "Venus" as an example of slam poetry.

February 22 - Kai Jackson promotes the Stellar Gospel Music Awards that are airing on WJZ on Sunday at 12:05am.

March 7 - Getting a TV pilot produced and shot is not an easy task but two local writers are hoping that by staging their pilot, as a staged play will generate the funds needed to finance the pilot. Carltaise Ransom and Sharod Jenkins tell Kai Jackson that their show, "Truthfully Speaking" portrays African Americans in a realistic manner as opposed to the stereotypical portrayal of Blacks on many of today's sitcoms.

March 7 - Kai Jackson introduces the third place winner's presentation in WJZ's Black History Oratory Contact. Nickole Scroggins, a 12th grader at Western High School took home \$100 for finishing in third place.

March 14 - Harriette Cole, a Baltimore-born author, talks with Kai Jackson about her latest books that incorporate African and African-American culture in marriage and other rituals. African American couples planning marriage ceremonies use her books, Vows and Jumping the Broom.

March 21 - Eva Anderson tells Kai Jackson how she incorporates African and African American culture in the dances she choreographs. The Eva Anderson Dancers are celebrating their 30th year with a special performance being held at Columbia's Jim Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts.

March 28 - Yasmin Shiraz tells Kai Jackson why she wrote a book targeting teenage and young girls. Many college students approached the author and asked for advice on a variety of subjects from dating to clothing. Her book serves as a guide to young women facing many of the same issues she dealt with when she was their age.

5. EDUCATION

January 13 - Howard County's Oakland Mills High School is under fire for allowing 16 students to play sports even though their grades weren't high enough.

January 14 - Criminal investigation is underway to determine whether anyone at Baltimore City school headquarters did anything illegal to contribute to the massive deficit.

January 15 -Punishment recommended for Oakland Mills High School football coach who allowed students to play who weren't academically eligible.

January 19 - Students from area high schools leave to tour key civil rights locations in the south.

January 19 - City teachers protest possible lay-offs, pay cuts.

January 20 - Teachers support sales tax increase to get the city schools out of debt.

January 2 - City schools administration makes an offer to teachers, take an eight-day furlough or a pay cut to help balance the budget.

January 22 -Howard County school board decides not to renew the contract of the superintendent.

January 22 - Parents accuse police at Glenelg High School in Howard County of unfairly treating their son when he was arrested in school because he is Muslim.

January 22 - Discussion of city school system's financial crisis by state lawmakers.

January 28 - Financially strapped Baltimore schools ask for money from the state during what's known as the annual beg-a-thon.

January 29 - Health investigators look into the death of a student at Washington College, who had some type of mysterious illness.

February 6 - City school teachers vote to reject pay-cuts to remedy the school's massive budget deficit.

February 6 - Parents and students react to school vote.

February 6 - Interview with area students who visited key civil rights locations in the south.

February 8 - Advance of protest at state house. teachers, parents, etc. from across the state upset that the state cannot afford to fully fund an education initiative.

February 9 - Baltimore mayor meets with city schools CEO to trying to figure out a way to solve the budget crisis without teacher layoffs.

February 9 - Teachers, administrators, parents etc, protest at state house to try to convince the state to fully fund and education initiative.

February 10 - Baltimore mayor proposes new compromise to save money and avoid teacher layoffs in the city schools.

February 10 - Parents submit ideas to Baltimore City school leaders to save teacher jobs.

February 11 - State lawmakers propose intervening in the city schools budget crisis.

February 11 - City teachers scheduled to vote again on accepting a pay cut to deal with the school budget crisis, but this one is smaller than one originally proposed.

February 12 - House of Delegates plans to change the law that says it must vote on whether the state can afford to fully fund statewide education initiative.

February 13 - More teachers than usual call in sick after voting to reject smaller pay cut than originally proposed and administrators have to go cover for them.

February 13 - State launches investigation into city school budget crisis

February 14 - City school board holds closed-door meeting on Saturday morning to discuss the school budget crisis and the teacher's second rejection of a pay cut.

February 14 - Baltimore's federal prosecutor wants to know if there is any criminal activity going on in connection with the city school budget crisis.

February 15 - Governor wants to know what went wrong in Baltimore City schools

February 15 - Teachers and parents are pushing for a criminal investigation into the massive school budget deficit

February 16 - A tentative deal is in place to save city teacher's jobs without paycuts as a non-profit organization offers a loan.

February 16 - Governor says state will offer help to cash-strapped city schools.

February 17 - Report on Governor's plan to save the city schools from Annapolis.

February 18 - City Board of Estimates approves first of several loans for cash-strapped city schools.

February 19 - Investigation of how City school budget crisis grew under schools CEO who has since left the school system.

February 19 - Embattled superintendent of schools in Howard County resigns.

February 20 - Eyewitness News investigates why the City school board didn't step in as the city school budget deficit got bigger.

February 20 - Teachers hold roundtable on \$58 million loan to pull school city schools out of budget deficit.

February 23 - Governor rejects city schools plan to solve its budget crisis and there is word the man in charge of restructuring the school budget has resigned.

February 24 - Interview with man charged with drawing up city schools financial plan that resigned

February 25 - Governor meets with City's General Assembly delegation to set up a committee to oversee the budget crisis situation.

February 25 - Standardized testing begins in Maryland schools, but some parents are boycotting the tests.

February 25 - New proposal out of the state capitol to have a three member committee oversee the cash-strapped city schools.

February 26 - More allegations of grade changing within the Howard County school system and two top administrators are removed from their jobs.

March 1 - City and state leaders reach tentative deal on who will take over the city schools and how much power they'll have.

March 1 - Some Muslim families in Baltimore County want schools to close on their two major religious holidays.

March 3 - State legislature continues to work on drafting a bill to loan money to help the city schools out of its budget problems.

March 5 - New questions surround the resignation of former city schools CEO.

March 5 - City and State leaders agree on bailout plan for Baltimore City Schools.

March 8 - General Assembly gets its first look at emergency legislation to rescue the City schools out of debt.

March 9 - Baltimore officially announces that the city will reject state bailout plan for schools and put the money up themselves.

March 9 - Students and parents protest city's decision to reject the state bailout plan for the schools, also reaction from teachers who support it.

March 9 - City schools decide to fire chief academic officer.

March 10 - Scrutiny surrounding Mayor's plan to use city money to bail out the schools.

March 10 - Fired city schools chief academic officer talks to Eyewitness News.

March 10 - City braces for mass exodus of teachers from city schools leaving for other systems because of budget situation.

March 11 - Maryland U.S. Attorney's office launches its own investigation of what sent the city schools plunging into debt.

March 12 - Former Baltimore City school employee is arrested for allegedly defrauding the city schools of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

March 15 - More on the tense and sometimes violent post-game celebration after the University of Maryland beats Duke to win the ACC tournament.

March 16 - Baltimore Mayor's plan to bail out the City school system goes before the City Council.

March 17 - City officials approve Mayor's plan to use city funds to save the Baltimore City schools from going into debt.

March 18 - Baltimore County schools plan to ban smoking at all schools and school events gains strength.

March 19 - Students at a Baltimore elementary school are tested for TB after a former teacher comes down with it.

March 22 - Two Baltimore County teachers receive presidential awards, the highest honor for teachers in the nation.

March 23 - A stabbing at a Baltimore Middle School prompts a call for action from the neighborhood and the city.

March 24 - Hundreds of computer users including some University of Maryland students are being sued for downloading music illegally.

March 29-th--angry parents, teachers and community leaders meet at west Baltimore middle school for a summit on violence in and around the school.

March 30 - A new plan to save money within the cash strapped city school system calls for early retirement for some teachers.

ON TIME

January 25 - Kai Jackson introduces the topic of mentoring and shows a video on the Legg Mason Mentoring Program that serves as a model for other corporate mentoring programs. Legg Mason organizers Jeff Durkee and Angela Roberts join Linda Stewart the executive director of the Maryland Mentoring Partnership. They discuss how the Legg Mason program is structured, when it began and how it benefits both the student mentees and the adult mentors. Legg Mason mentor Rick Welsh and mentees Donnell Gould and Tamiaka Lewis share with Kai Jackson their experiences with the 5-year-old program. Students who have mentors have better grades, are absent from school less often and have higher graduation rates than students who are not matched with an adult mentor.

February 1 - Kai Jackson talks with Joan Marshall, the executive director of the College Savings Plans of Maryland about the state sponsored 529 Plans. She tells Kai that there are tax benefits for families to enroll in one of two plans. Families can contribute as little as \$25 a month towards their child's college tuition. If the child does not decide to go to college, this money can be rolled over to another sibling or family money or can be withdrawn although with a 10% penalty.

February 1 - The Maryland Higher Education Commission coordinates financial aid and publishes an annual "College 411" booklet with the latest information on grants, scholarships, awards, etc. State aid is based on FAFSA - the Free Application for Federal Student Aid that must be submitted each year between January 1 and March 1. Andrea Hunt tells Kai Jackson about the types of grants including the Education Assistance and Guaranteed Access Grants that target low to moderate-income students.

February 1 - CollegeBound helps Baltimore City public school students go to college by placing counselors in every city high school to coordinate the cumbersome college application process and by providing last dollar grants. Last dollar grants help students go to college when they don't have enough money after financial aid, grants and scholarships to pay the tuition costs. Jimmy Tadlock and April Bell tell Kai Jackson that without these grants, many city students could not go to college.

February 8 - After school programs have demonstrated time and again just how important they are in helping to shape young people's lives. Kai Jackson talks with participants who created art depicting the need for after-school programs. This exhibition, "Baltimore Has Many Reasons to Believe Campaign" features over 40 works of art on display at a local art gallery.

February 29 - Kai Jackson talks with Dr. Stanley Battle, the president of Coppin State College about the state's budget crisis and the impact on higher education and Coppin specifically. They discussed upgrades to Coppin's academic programs and their drive to change the college to university status.

February 29 - The editor of the National Society of Black Engineer's publications tells Kai Jackson how the non-profit organization is making progress at reducing the digital divide through their TORCH program. His group comprised of student engineers works with local community groups to mentor residents in the computer field. Their upcoming national conference is being held in Dallas during March.

March 14 - Kai Jackson talks with Vic Frierson who founded the PEACE Project, a group that targets city youth interested in the arts. This organization tries to counter the negative images on TV in the movies and on the Internet. He works with writers to rappers to encourage them to incorporate positive images and messages in their music.